

FINAL REPORT

STRATEGIC REGIONAL ARTERIAL

**CORRIDOR 4 - DOWNTOWN ROUTES
COLUMBUS DR./CONGRESS PKWY/LA SALLE ST./WACKER DR./
DESPLAINES ST./JEFFERSON ST./ROOSEVELT RD./
SOUTH LOOP CONNECTOR**

APRIL, 1998

By:



DAMES & MOORE

A DAMES & MOORE GROUP COMPANY

For:



**Illinois Department
of Transportation**



**Operation
Greenlight**

FOREWORD

This report deals with the "Chicago Downtown SRA corridor" composed of eight interconnected routes. These routes include Columbus Drive, Congress Parkway, La Salle Street, Wacker Drive, DesPlaines Street, Jefferson Street, Roosevelt Road & South Loop Connector. This Strategic Regional Arterial (SRA) report for "Chicago Downtown SRA corridor" has been prepared for the Illinois Department of Transportation and the Strategic Regional Arterial Subcommittee of the Work Program Committee of the Chicago Area Transportation Study by Dames & Moore.

As a SRA route, "Chicago Downtown SRA corridor" is intended to function as part of a regional arterial system. This report is one element of a long range plan for all routes in the SRA network. Together, the route studies constitute a comprehensive, coordinated plan for the entire SRA network.

Included in this report are a description of the SRA study objectives and process, a detailed exposition and analysis of the existing route conditions, recommendations for ultimate improvements, and documentation of the public involvement process including citizen comments.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The "Chicago Downtown SRA Corridor" is composed of eight interconnected routes. These routes include Columbus Drive, Congress Parkway, La Salle Street, Wacker Drive, DesPlaines Street, Jefferson Street, Roosevelt Road & the proposed South Loop Connector. The "Chicago Downtown SRA Corridor" has been analyzed separately for each route and as well as a corridor. Recommendations for long range improvements (year 2010) have been developed for each route section. A summary of the major recommendations is presented below.

Columbus Drive - Lake Shore Drive at Roosevelt Road to Ontario Street

- Develop three 10-foot lanes in each direction with painted median and parking on the west side from Roosevelt Road to Balbo Drive.
- Develop three 11-foot lanes in each direction with painted median and parking on both east and west sides from Balbo Drive to Jackson Boulevard.
- Develop three 10-foot lanes in each direction with painted median and parking on west side only from Jackson Boulevard to Monroe Street.
- Develop three 11-foot lanes in each direction with 14-foot barrier median from Monroe Street to Grand Avenue.
- Retain two 11-foot lanes in each direction with 14-foot flush median from Grand Avenue to Ontario Street.

Congress Parkway - Franklin Street to Columbus Drive

- Maintain the existing cross-section from Franklin Street to Wells Street.
- Develop three 11-foot lanes in each direction with 14-foot Chicago style planter median from Wells Street to State Street.
- Develop three 10-foot lanes in each direction with painted median from State Street to Michigan Avenue.
- Maintain the existing cross-section from Michigan Avenue to Columbus Drive.

- To improve through traffic movement, removal of the signal is recommended at the following intersections:
 - a. Congress Parkway & Financial Street
 - b. Congress Parkway & La Salle Street
 - c. Congress Parkway & Federal Street
 - d. Congress Parkway & Plymouth Court

La Salle Street - Wacker Drive to Lake Shore Drive

- Develop three lanes in each direction with planter/flush median from Kinzie Street to North Avenue. The existing on-street parking is recommended to be retained on both east and west sides of the route.
- The recommendations from the North Avenue & the Lake Shore Drive SRA study will be incorporated for the La Salle Drive improvements from North Avenue to Lake Shore Drive.

Wacker Drive - Congress Parkway to Lake Shore Drive

- Recommended improvements for upper and lower Wacker Drive will be incorporated from the Chicago Department of Transportation Study.

DesPlaines Street - Roosevelt Road to Ohio/Ontario

- Develop three lanes one-way southbound between Roosevelt Road and Lake Street. Separate on-street parking on both sides of DesPlaines Street.
- Develop three eleven-foot lanes one-way southbound with on-street parking on east side only. This recommendation would require a new exit ramp from Ohio Street feeder ramp to DesPlaines Street.

Jefferson Street - Roosevelt Road to Ohio/Ontario

- Develop four lanes one-way northbound between Roosevelt Road and Van Buren Street. Separate on-street parking on both sides of the Jefferson Street.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - cont'd

- Develop three lanes one-way northbound from Van Buren Street to Lake Street. Separate on-street parking on both sides of the Jefferson Street.
- Develop three eleven-foot lanes one-way northbound with no on-street parking from Lake Street to Grand Avenue. This proposed recommendation would require the extension of Jefferson Street to Grand Avenue.

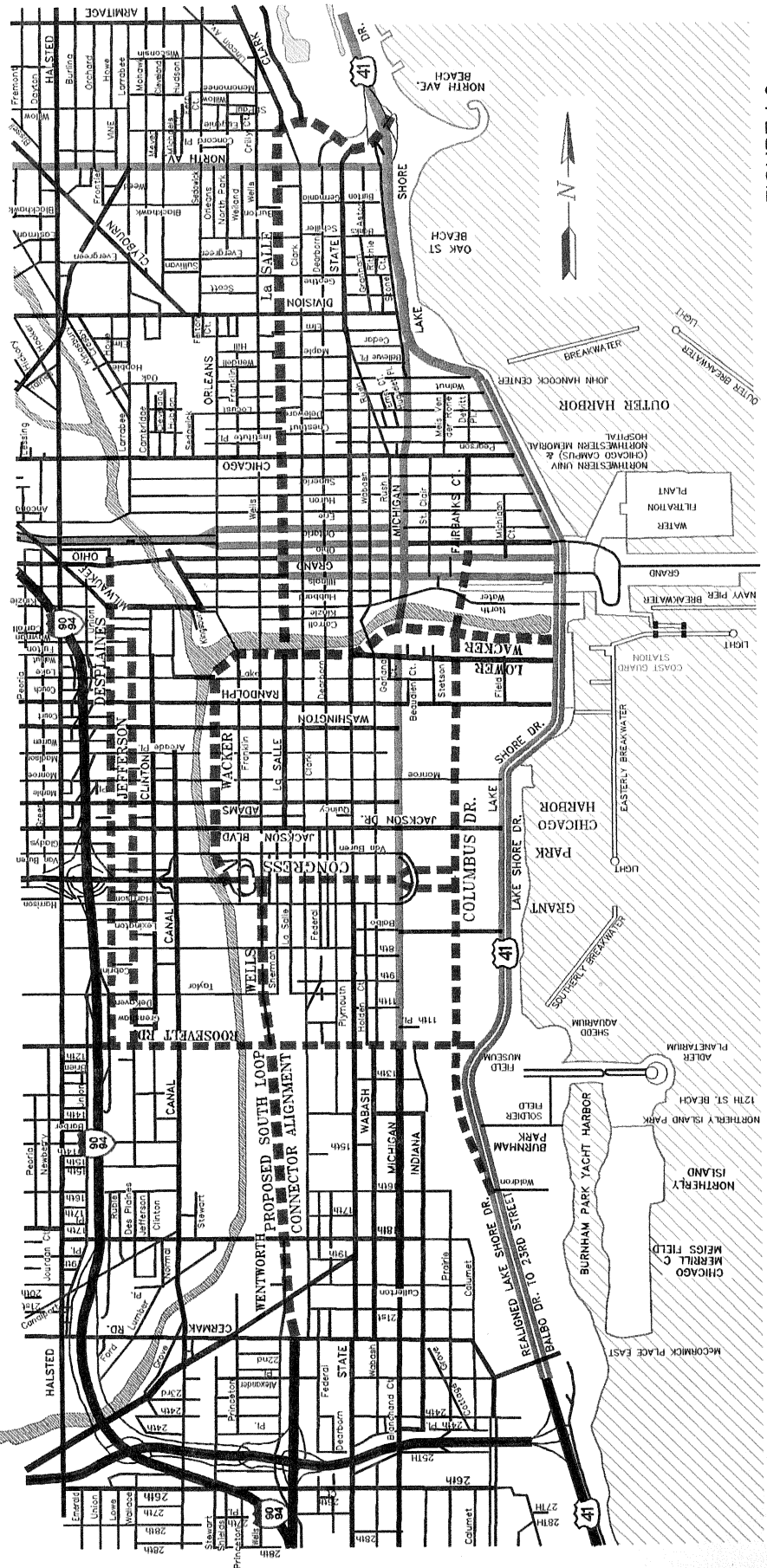
Roosevelt Road - I-90/94 (Dan Ryan Expressway) to Lake Shore Drive

- Develop three lanes in each direction with a barrier/planter median from I-90/94 (Dan Ryan Expressway) to Lake Shore Drive. The existing on-street parking between DesPlaines Street and Canal Street should be restricted to off-peak hours only.

South Loop Connector - Cermak Road at Dan Ryan connector to Congress Parkway at Wacker Drive

- Develop new roadway from Cermak Road to Taylor Street.
- Develop two lanes in each direction with a barrier/flush median from Cermak Road to Congress Parkway.

COLUMBUS DR.\CONGRESS PKWY.\WACKER DR.\LA SALLE ST.\JEFFERSON ST.\ DESPLAINES ST.\ROOSEVELT RD.\SOUTH LOOP CONNECTOR



LEGEND :
 SRA ROUTES THIS SUBSET
 SRA ROUTES OTHER SUBSETS

FIGURE I-2
CORRIDOR MAP